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060206

The Problem:

Professional Outfitting, especially for deer hunting, has exploded in certain areas of Wisconsin over the past few decades and has now become a multi-million dollar industry. An annual \$40 Guide License allows outfitters to commercially guide for hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Management and DNR Law Enforcement have no data available as to the number of big game outfitters in operation, what Game Management Unit they operate in, how much private land they control, what type of harvest they take, or how many hunters they outfit for. Such information might be beneficial in the management of the resource.

Whereas, Outfitters are harvesting a natural resource owned by the people of the State of Wisconsin for their own personal gain,

And Whereas, The commercial harvest of big game should be monitored and reported similar to how we currently monitor and report commercial harvest of fish for example, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in **Buffalo County** on **April 10, 2006**, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources regulate Big Game Outfitters as done in many Western States. Regulations should include a monitoring plan based on verifiable and sworn reports (at least annually) from each outfitter,

ALSO, BE IT RESOLVED, The Wisconsin State Legislature should create a **Big Game Outfitters License**. Said license should be resident-only and have an appropriate fee in line with the scope of the outfitting industry. A revocation penalty should be included to avoid fraudulent reports and to maintain a reputable industry.

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County _____

Passed or Failed _____

County Resolution Number: _____

County Vote: YES _____ NO _____